

Board Meeting  
November 14-15, 2000

10-0061

Agenda Item 14  
Attachment 4 (Revised)  
ATTACHMENT C

**STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS**

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**STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS****Background:**

The Final Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") identified and discussed significant effects, which will occur as a result of the Project. With the implementation of the mitigation measures discussed in the FEIR, these effects can be mitigated to levels of insignificance except for the unavoidable direct significant impacts to air quality and visual quality/aesthetics and the cumulative impacts to traffic/circulation, noise, and visual quality/aesthetics that result when this Project is combined with other projects in the area.

**The Statement:**

The Planning Commission of the County of San Diego ("Planning Commission"), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15093, in approving the various actions that are the subject of the FEIR, having considered and independently judged the information contained in the FEIR and having reviewed and considered the public testimony and record, adopts the following Statement of Overriding Considerations in support of the Findings and the action of the Planning Commission in approving the Project. The County recognizes that significant and unavoidable impacts will result from implementation of the Project. Having (i) adopted all feasible mitigation measures, (ii) rejected the alternatives to the Project, (iii) recognized all significant, unavoidable impacts, and (iv) balanced the benefits of the Project against the Project's significant and unavoidable effects, the Planning Commission hereby finds that the economic, legal, social, technological, aesthetic, environmental and other benefits of the Project outweigh and override the significant unavoidable effects, and justify adoption of the Project and certification of the completed FEIR, for the reasons stated below.

**Finding:**

Having balanced the benefits of the Project against the Project's potential unavoidable adverse impacts, the Planning Commission hereby determines that the benefits of the Project outweigh the potential unavoidable adverse impacts, and that the potential unavoidable adverse impacts are nonetheless "acceptable," based on the following overriding considerations:

1. The Project will increase the life of the landfill approximately 16 years beyond the current remaining life of 10 years. This increase in life will provide needed landfill capacity to help meet future solid waste disposal needs within the County of San Diego, particularly in the South County area. In addition to the Otay Landfill, there are four other permitted landfills currently serving the County of San Diego. They include the Miramar and Sycamore Landfills located in the City of San Diego, the Ramona Landfill located in the Community of Ramona, and the Borrego Springs Landfill located near the community of Borrego Springs. The Ramona and Borrego

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Springs Landfills are smaller, low volume facilities that generally serve their local communities. Of the three larger landfills, only the Otay Landfill is located in the South County area and available to directly serve those residents. Maintaining a landfill in the South County area will prevent local residents from having to haul waste long distances to out-of-area landfills, thereby reducing increased time and costs for travel, vehicle emissions, road wear, and traffic congestion as solid waste from residents would be required to travel greater distances to other landfills. Additionally, the Miramar Landfill is estimated to reach capacity in approximately 12 years and the Sycamore Landfill in 20 years unless expansion permits are obtained. The possible closure of these landfills increases the need to maximize the capacity of existing facilities until new landfills can be permitted and opened.

2. The Project will allow the landfill to operate from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and will allow transfer trailers to access the site for staging purposes from 4:30 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Allowing off-hour access during these revised hours will allow larger refuse transfer trucks and other refuse vehicles to use the freeways and local street system during off-peak commuter traffic hours.
3. The Project over its lifetime will generate several million dollars in new business for the community through vendor services and facility construction activities. It is estimated that over \$21.5 million will be spent for general site improvements, cell construction, and to maintain compliance with facility permits. Over \$11 million will be spent for closure construction activities and \$10.5 million for 30-year postclosure maintenance. Additionally, \$7 to \$15 million will be spent annually for general operating costs. These costs include local vendor services for fueling, equipment purchases and maintenance, office supplies, and employee programs.
4. The Project will avoid the need to export 3,000,000 cubic yards of excess soil to achieve the current design capacity. The Project design will incorporate the use of all soils excavated on-site, thereby eliminating traffic and air quality impacts related to soils being exported from the site. Approximately 250,000 truck trips would be required to export 3,000,000 cubic yards of soil to an off-site location.
5. The Project design includes additional drainage and road facilities that are not required under the current permitted design. Facilities include additional desilting basins, lined drainage channels, benches, downdrains, and perimeter access roads. These facilities, constructed to accommodate the landfill expansion, will also result in improvements to storm water run-off management, dust control, and on-site traffic flows.
6. The Project will allow for the continued employment of approximately 26 employees over the life of the site. Approximately 5 additional employees may be required as the site reaches full operational capacity. This includes additional operators and general labor support to manage projected increases in daily disposal volumes over the life of the Project.

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7. The Project will provide extended landfill capacity in the South County. This will enable cities to implement their General Plan for the surrounding communities by providing sufficient local landfill capacity necessary to meet those planned communities needs.